

Davis Tackles Interstate Waste Problem in Virginia

One of the most contentious issues facing the Commonwealth is the current transportation of municipal waste into Virginia from other parts of the country. My office has received numerous phone calls, letters and e-mails asking that something be done with the growing amount of interstate trash that is being brought into our state.

In response to these concerns, I am leading a delegation of Virginia lawmakers to lobby for legislation enabling states to restrict the volume of waste coming into their borders. We sent a letter to Congressman Paul Gillmor, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials, urging him to make interstate waste legislation a priority in the Subcommittee.

Virginians are becoming increasingly concerned about trash trucks coming down Interstate 95 and rural roads, bringing out of state garbage through their communities to dump sites in the First District. Not only does the imported garbage compromise the natural beauty and environmental quality of the Commonwealth, but being the second largest importer of trash in the nation is not consistent with my image and vision for Virginia.

Moreover, with the recent closing of the Fresh Kills landfill in New York, which received a large share of New York City's municipal waste, the need for Congressional action is even more urgent.

Legislation must be passed that will include provisions allowing Virginia to cap the volume of garbage entering existing landfills as well as future ones. I will continue working with other lawmakers to move such legislation forward.

Tax Relief for All Who Pay Taxes - Period

The interest of the American taxpayer must be defended, and my stance on this issue is simple - Congress must provide tax relief for all who pay taxes - period. Americans are overtaxed, and thankfully, help is on the way.

The federal government has grown at an incredible rate over the past few decades, and now in the era of government surpluses, Congress and the White House have an unprecedented opportunity to halt this massive government expansion and return some of the extra surplus funds to the American taxpayer who overpaid his or her share. We have taken advantage of this opportunity and passed tax reform legislation which was signed into law.

The Marriage Penalty and Family Tax Relief Act, of which I was a co-sponsor, stops taxing families - and starts helping them by working to phase out the unfair tax on marriage which negatively impacts over 60,400 couples in our First District of Virginia alone, while doubling the child tax credit for families - benefitting over 114,300 children in our

district. Statewide, 643,211 couples and 1,153,580 children will benefit from this bill.

This year, Congress also passed legislation to phase out the "Death Tax" - the tax levied on farms and businesses by the government. The Death Tax Elimination Act phases out this tax which often consumes family owned businesses and farms - taxing up to 60 percent of the business or estate. The death tax hurts families and devastates farms and businesses - it is a job killer.

We also passed legislation which lowers the tax rates for everyone who pays taxes. This is not targeted relief directed at specific groups fortunate enough to be recognized as "deserving" by the government - this is some relief for everyone. We must provide tax relief while still paying down the debt, strengthening Social Security and revitalizing our nation's armed forces.

Responsible tax relief is needed to get the extra money out of Washington before it is spent, but more importantly, it is needed because the working families deserve to keep more of the money they earn.

Promoting pro-family, pro-employee initiatives

With everyday life becoming increasingly more complicated, the concept of telecommuting has risen as a possible solution to meet the demands of our fast paced culture. I have co-sponsored the Telework Tax Incentive Act which would provide a \$500 federal tax credit to encourage employers to allow some of their employees to give telecommuting a try.

By allowing employees to spend a few days working at home or at telecenters, it helps alleviate the increased traffic on the roads, provides for a cleaner environment, and would also provide parents some time with their children. I recently co-chaired an oversight hearing in the Subcommittee on Technology and Procurement Policy addressing the telecommuting issue, to learn more about the successes and impediments of telework policies. The Federal government needs to develop programs and policies to attract a skilled workforce and telecommuting is critical to its recruitment and retention efforts.

Constituent Service Guide

As your Representative in the U.S. Congress, my offices are here to help you resolve problems or concerns you may have with the federal government such as:

- **Issues Impacting Seniors**
- **Veterans Issues**
- **Small Business Concerns**
- **Home Buyers Information**
- **Government**
- **Taxpayer Concerns**
- **Student Issues**
- **Worker Concerns**



Rep. Davis discusses military issues with President Bush on Air Force One.

Don't Miss the White House

If you are coming to Washington, make sure you don't miss seeing the White House. A limit of ten tickets each week are available to Congressional offices for special White House tours, which are offered between 8:15am and 8:45am, Tuesday through Saturday. Due to the overwhelming demand for White House tickets, they are available on a first come, first serve basis, so make sure and reserve your tickets far in advance.

If one of these tours is unavailable, you may take one of the public tours which operate between 10:00am and noon, Tuesday through Saturday. You may pick up these tickets at the White House ticket office.

Get a Flag Flown Over the Capitol

My office can provide American flags that have been flown over the Capitol for constituents. Often requested as gifts, these flags are mailed with an accompanying certificate, indicating for whom the flag was flown and on what day. If you would like to order a flag, simply contact one of my offices. Flags range in cost from \$10-\$25.

Congresswoman Jo Ann Davis Reports Home

Dear Friends and Fellow Virginians:

Traveling across the district, I have had the honor of meeting many of you and listening to your views and concerns on a number of issues facing the First District of Virginia. You sent me to Washington to fight for your interests, and that is what I have been working towards these past few months.

It is my pleasure to provide you with a brief report from Washington updating you on what we have accomplished, and what still needs to be done for the First District, and America. I hope you will find it both useful and informative. We are making progress, but there is still much more to be done.

*Sincerely, **Jo Ann Davis***

Local Lawmaker's First Bill Signed Into Law

**Davis is first freshman lawmaker to pass legislation in the
107th Congress impacting public law**

This Spring, I introduced my first piece of legislation after finding out the plight of many families who lost loved ones in the recent tragedies that have beset our military. Following the Virginia National Guard crash that killed 18 servicemen, it was learned that, although public law was passed last year increasing the amount of Servicemen's Group Life Insurance (SGLI) paid to beneficiaries of those killed in the performance of their duty, many of these families would not be able to collect the increased amount. The reason was that Public Law 106-419, which instituted the increase, did not go into effect until April 1, 2001.

Left unchanged, families of those killed in the recent Cole tragedy, the Osprey and National Guard crashes and the recent accidental bombing in Kuwait would not receive the increase even if those individuals opted for the increased coverage. My legislation was introduced to modify the recently passed law which increased SGLI benefits from \$200,000 to \$250,000 by making it retroactive to October 1, 2000, thus ensuring that the families of those who opted for the maximum coverage and perished in these recent accidents would receive the maximum benefits.

Thankfully, following the endorsement of President Bush and Veterans Affairs Secretary Principi, the House of Representatives passed this legislation. HR 1015, the SGLI Adjustment Act, was included as a primary component of the Veterans Opportunity Act of 2001, a comprehensive veterans bill crafted to meet several pending needs of America's veterans.

With the White House's endorsement and strong support from the House, this legislation passed the Senate and was signed into law by the President.

The men and women of our Armed Forces dedicate, and sometimes sacrifice, their lives for our nation and its freedom. It is very satisfying to know that my first piece of legislation will go towards helping our men and women in uniform.

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